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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S

USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 5

**

NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1987

EDITED BY: DICK WAGNER
CHAIRMAN: SYD WYNCOOP
V/CHAIRMAN: DICK WAGNER
SECRETARY: JACK ARMSTRONG
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: JAMES EDWARDS

MEETING

The JANUARY meeting will be:

on: FRI., JANUARY 9 1987

at: 7:30 P.M.

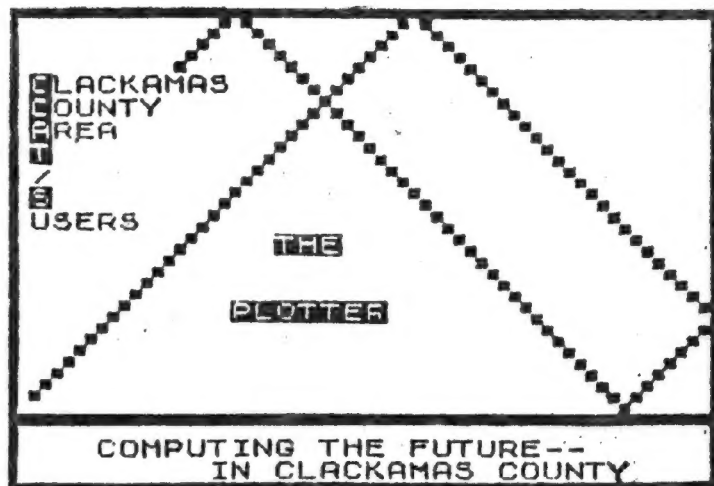
in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L

OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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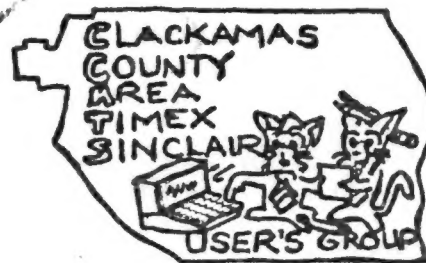
Chairman's Corner

This ends a very productive year for us Timex users. There were many surprises and new products introduced for our little orphans.

This is also the end of my year as chairman. I hope I have served you well. I would like to note that I received very little feedback from you during the year.

It is important that we members tell the officers what we would like the club to do. Our computers and most of our members have 'matured' enough to take on special projects. Let's come to the January meeting with some concrete suggestions.

May you all have the merriest of Christmas' and a very happy New Year!



SECRETARY'S SECRETS

by Jack Armstrong

Syd Wyncoop called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He called for the treasurer's report after reminding the members of the refreshments that were brought by Rod Gowen. The treasury is still holding up, though it is thin at this time of the year. As new business, Ken stated that he had brought some cassette holders that are rejects from his place of work, although they are usable. He invited anyone to heap themselves. Syd mentioned that he had an article covering memory storage, CD ROMs, and optical disk printed programs. He passed around a sample called StripWare. Dick brought some extra DAK catalogs.

Under New Business, Dick commented that we had loose rules governing elections and suggested that we make a rule that ballots be counted at the December meeting so that the new officers would have a little lead time for assuming office. A motion was made and seconded to that effect and a show of hands passed it. The ballots were counted later, but it was so close that mail-in ballots will decide the officers. Dick also posed a procedural question about how we handle our bank account. Syd appointed a committee of Gwenn, Dick and himself to meet with Rod and study the matter and report back to the membership with a procedure format for us to use in the future. We will have an audit as of Dec. 31st.

Bill Rich gave a report on the Tape-Chain action. The first tape is making the rounds and a 2nd tape has been started. Rod reported that we now have a tape from Sincus that will be added to our library as will the Tape-Chains when they complete their rounds. They will be sent on a second trip around so that everyone will have the opportunity to add them to their own personal libraries as they wish. Tim brought copies of his latest: The Best of Time Designs and Dennis volunteered to make copies of a pamphlet covering communications (Modem info, etc.) The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-is now in its THIRD BIG YEAR! We want to wish them well this year! If they keep improving the way that they have in the past, we will see a lot of GREAT items in the pages of TDM. They have just released THE BEST OF TIME DESIGNS VOLUME 1. At only \$10.00, we think that each TS user can afford it. It is LOADED with information that appeared in the first year of TIME DESIGNS. Some of it has been rewritten to reflect changes and corrections to the original material in the magazine. We only have one small suggestion for TDM, they might have done better to call this issue THE DICK WAGNER/DENNIS JURRIES VOLUME OF THE BEST OF TDM. (Not really, it just seemed that every page that we read had one or the other of those names on it!) KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, TIM!!! LOOKING FOR THE BEST, VOLUME 3!!

ELECTIONS-are over and the results are in. (See article elsewhere in this issue.) We just want to congratulate(?) the winners and wish them well in the coming year!

QL WORLD MAGAZINE-(incorporating QL USER) is now available from RMG ENTERPRISES at a price of \$4.50 per issue or a 1 yr subscription for only \$51! that saves you \$9 over the regular subscription from England. If interested, call: 655-7484.

ARROW SOFTWARE!-is back in our news again this month! Now the label is going to give us a REAL MUSIC package! From what James Edwards tells us, this one will allow you to play

along with the beat and then play it back to hear it all together! We can hardly wait to see it! After all of the other so-called "music programs" that we have seen, we do hope that this one will not disappoint us! As with all ARROW products, this one will be distributed exclusively through RMG Enterprises.

QL SIG-did not get discussed at the December meeting, but we did get a QL SIG SWAP TAPE started. Don and Gwenn Malm were kind enough to start the ball rolling by putting all of the QL routines and programs from THE PLOTTER on a tape. We now hear that VINCE LYON, who wrote our QL Corner Column, has typed in a couple of games from the book, QL GAMES-MASTER and they will be on the tape by next meeting. There will be a master copy of the QL TAPE at the home of our library. We hope to discuss the SIG formation at the January meeting.

2068 SWAP TAPE-production seems to be going along quite well. BILL RICH told us that he was starting tape number 2 on its way around to be filled. We also received a copy of the SWAP TAPE from SINCUS user group in New York. As soon as one of our tapes is ready, we will send them a copy in return. If anyone wants to copy the SINCUS SWAP TAPE, contact the library at 655-7484.

PATS-is now officially a part of CCAT/S! We welcome all PATS members and hope that they enjoy THE PLOTTER as their new newsletter. PLEASE, send any and all contributions for publication to: CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045. All materials must be in by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the next months newsletter. WE NEED YOUR SUBMISSIONS! IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN IT?!

QL CORNER-will no longer be appearing in THE PLOTTER. Vince says that due to a lack of a show of interest, he cannot continue the column. Maybe if we let him know what we want to see, he will resume???

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The election for 1987 officers was the most active in the 4 year history of CCAT/S with at least 2 names for each office except the volunteer treasurer. You will note from the Page 1 list of officers there is no change. They all warrant your continuing support.

The second year of Syd Wyncoop's leadership portends some changes, the main one is the consolidation of two organizations, Portland Area Timex Sinclair User Group, PATS, and Clackamas County Area T/S User Group, CCAT/S. PATS will retain its main mode of operation as a special interest group, SIG, of CCAT/S with an additional meeting time, usually the second Saturday of each month. Meetings usually have been specialized in specific subjects, with a meeting time of 1-4 at Portland Community College.

Another change will be an active machine code/language study group conducted by PATS. A fair number of our members have shown an interest in studying this subject and this will be the big opportunity. It is hoped that this can be scheduled as early as February. Because of some difference of opinion as to how elementary this instruction should be at the beginning it may be possible for strict beginners to have meetings twice a month to get the basics covered. There is no apparent restriction about more skilled users becoming participants at a later date.

Based on preliminary discussion with possible instructors, hands-on instruction may be considered. This could be a problem for members who do not wish to dismantle their equipment each time. One way to overcome the equipment problem could be the use of TS 1000-1500 computers. Used ones are usually available for purchase.

It is apparent that these instruction periods are to be like going to school in that there will be assignments, and participants will not be late or absent simply

Continued page 5

SAVE MEMORY--USE BURIED COLOR CODES
INSTEAD OF COLOR COMMANDS

Syd Wyncoop

Many of you have purchased commercial programs that appear to be unlistable, yet they run fine. One of the ways to accomplish this is to use 'buried' color codes in the listing.

What are buried color codes and how do I use them? They are the equivalent of the color commands you are used to using in BASIC, however they do not appear in the listing. This hidden appearance or non-appearance, if you prefer, is due to the use of the color control codes instead of the commands.

For the moment, look at your Sinclair manual, page 240. "Nothing exciting here", you say, "just the character set. I've seen that before!" What we are interested in is the attribute control control characters, codes 16-20. You can see these codes are referred to as INK control, PAPER control, etc. Now look at page 244, character codes 217-222. These are merely labeled INK, PAPER, etc. The difference is how they are interpreted by the basic interpreter and where they are used.

The commands, codes 217-222, are interpreted directly and appear as statements in a BASIC line. They require an argument and will affect the entire screen unless immediately after a PRINT command.

The color control codes are interpreted in the same manner however, they do not have a key dedicated to them, as does INK, PAPER and the rest. About now you are probably saying, "Here comes the catch. I'm going to have to POKE something somewhere. The last time I did that, I got worms crawling up my screen!"

The truth is that you could use the control codes by POKEng them in however, that would not be much of an improvement. These codes would be really useful if you could access them from the keyboard direct. All of the control codes 16-20 can be generated from the keyboard. This is accomplished from E-mode, as shown in the chart.

You will find that use of the control codes will lead to some odd program listings. The major difference is that buried codes will cause the listing to have the same attributes as the last encountered control code. For example, if the last control code was to turn on FLASH, the entire screen will be flashing. This can be very annoying. This can be avoided by listing the program from a line after the flash code. You could also use a FLASH off control code however, this wastes memory.

Why use attribute control codes? There are two good reasons. First, there is a tremendous savings of memory. Secondly, they allow easy formatting of print lines as they will read on the screen. This makes the listing somewhat easier to read, in most cases.

This example will demonstrate formatting and memory savings. Type in a line 10 as: PRINT/"E-mode shift/F/l/a/s/h/E-mode shift 8/ /me/ / E-mode shift 2/R/e/d/"Enter. The / mark is to separate keystrokes and should not be typed. Your line 10 should look like this:

```
10 PRINT "Flash me Red"
```

Not very exciting, but run it and see what happens.

Now, I claim a savings in memory as well as 'neat'. The normal equivalent in BASIC line to accomplish our simple test would look like this:

```
10 PRINT Flash 1;"Flash";  
FLASH 0;" me "; INK 2;"Red"
```

Assuming each of these lines are the only basic lines in our computer, we will find the line length stored in address 26712. If you don't know why, take my word on this as the explanation would make for another discussion. PEEKing this address will tell us that the test line occupies 22 bytes, while the normal line occupies 49 bytes. Obviously not a large savings, particularly when there are other ways of conserving memory, but I think you can see that there would be a tremendous saving over the entire length of a large program. Also, don't forget the additional formatting ease.

Try some experiments with these control codes and see if you get the

same results you expect. I think you will be pleased. Be aware however, some of these codes will cause odd listings. You may have to run the program to test it.

I should also mention that the same type of results can be achieved with control codes 21-23. I have not discussed them here as I am unaware of a way to enter them from the keyboard (like above). Those of you that understand POKEing will find them useful and do not need an explanation from me. The rest of you? Try to find a friend that will show you in person what is needed.

I hope this is of some help.

COLOR CHART *****		Description	
Keystrokes			
E-Mode, unshifted 0 thru 7	!	changes the paper color	
E-Mode, shifted 0 thru 7	!	changes the ink color	
E-Mode, unshifted 8	!	turns off bright	
E-Mode, unshifted 9	!	turns on bright	
E-Mode, shifted 8	!	turns off flash	
E-Mode, shifted 9	!	turns on flash	
L or K-Modes, shifted 3	!	turns off inverse	
L or K-Modes, shifted 4	!	turns on inverse	

Use the caps shift key where indicated. The symbol shift will not accomplish the desired results.

Continued from page 3

because there will be no time to go over missed material. We should consider this the same as being to work on time and not absent. Rough but not unreasonable. There may be some cost involved for instructors plus specific text books.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the December issue, page 5, in the review of BYTE POWER MAGAZINE, comment was made concerning a program in the newsletter about killing a load instruction by the use of a poke. This is the article that didn't get printed in the newsletter for lack of space.

FOOLPROOF LOAD KILL?

Dick Wagner

The new electronic magazine, BYTE POWER is using a clever method to make it impossible? to SAVE a program unless you have the secret. The magazine asks you to use POKE 23681,0 before LOADING a program if you wish to make a copy of it.

Referring to Systems Variables in your 2068 manual, Appendix D, note that address 23681 is not used. BYTE POWER programmers used POKE 23681,0 as the key. If this POKE is not used then you do not have access to the program (Basic) so it can be saved.

For instance the program PARANOID is listed like this after this POKE and then LOAD "":

```
1 IF PEEK 23681<>0 THEN RANDOMOZE
USR 32084: NEW
```

```
2 CLS: LIST 9999: STOP
9999 SAVE "Paranoid" LINE 1: VERIFY
"Paranoid"
```

Use GO TO 9999 to save on tape.

Use a program like this to try out this idea:

```
10 CLS: IF PEEK 23681 <> 0 THEN
GO TO 40
```

```
20 print "this program will not
load unless you POKE 23681,0 before
LOAD "":
```

```
30 STOP
```

```
40 NEW
```

```
9999 POKE 23681,1: SAVE "LOAD PROG"
LINE 10
```

If you do not POKE 23681,0 before making your LOAD you will not load this program- the NEW will wipe out the program as soon as it is loaded!

ELECTION RESULTS

Well, the ballots are all in and have been counted. For your information, here are the results in detail:

TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST= 18

CHAIRMAN

ED FRY----- 3
SYD WYNCOOP----- 8
DENNIS JURRIES----- 7

VICE CHAIRMAN

DICK WAGNER-----11
DENNIS JURRIES----- 7

SECRETARY

SYD WYNCOOP----- 6
JACK ARMSTRONG-----11

TREASURER

ROD GOWEN-----15

There you have it folks!

A poor turnout, to say the least, since all that was needed was a 22 cent stamp and 5 minutes! Oh Well! Over and done for another year and we congratulate the winners(?) for each office. As you can see, Syd is back by popular demand as well as Dick, Jack and Rod. No change! At least YOU MADE THE CHOICE! Our thanks to those of you who took the time to vote and show your group spirit. Maybe more will do so next year!

**BOLD PRINT ON YOUR
2040 PRINTER**

Dick Wagner

It is surprising what can be found in our library of newsletters. I ran across this program one time from the April 85 L.I.S.T, by Dick Scoville. I recommend its use when programs are submitted for printing in THE PLOTTER. I think the reader will agree that it makes nice copy.

```
1 CLEAR 56575
2 LET skd=57786
10 RESTORE
20 FOR i=skd TO skd+29
30 READ a: POKE i,a
40 PRINT i;" ";a;" ";PEEK i
50 NEXT i
55 DATA 17,0,221,213,1,0,3,42
56 DATA 54,92,36,126,167,31,1
2,18
57 DATA 35,19,13,32,246,16,244
,225
58 DATA 37,34,54,92,201,0,0,0
60 STOP
100 RANDOMIZE USR skd
110 LIST
120 REM use GOTO 100 to place M
C above RANTOP
130 REM SAVE "BOLD" CODE 56576,
1240 as direct command
140 REM LOAD "BOLD" CODE and th
en RANDOMIZE USR 57786
150 REM to return to the standa
rd character set POKE 23607,60
160 REM this program works with
LLIST, LPRINT, AND COPY
```

— * — * — * — * — * — * — * — * —
A TABLE OF THE KEYBOARD TOP ROW

MODE	SHIFT	FORMAT	Ink black	Paper black	DELETE	DELETE	DELETE	—	Ø
		CAT	Flash on	Extra bright	EXIT GRAPHICS	EXIT GRAPHICS	GRAPHICS MODE)	9
		POINT	Flash off	Normal brightness				(8
		ERASE	Ink white	Paper white				,	7
		MOVE	Ink yellow	Paper yellow				&	6
		CLOSE #	Ink cyan	Paper cyan				%	5
		OPEN #	Ink green	Paper green			INVERSE VIDEO	\$	4
		LINE	Ink magenta	Paper magenta			TRUE VIDEO	#	3
		FN	Ink red	Paper red			CAPS LOCK	@	2
		DEF FN	Ink blue	Paper blue			EDIT	!	1
		SYMBOL	CAPS	NONE	EITHER	NONE	CAPS	SYMBOL	NONE
			E		G		K,L or C		

MODEN FIX (2050)

THE RAMTOP
GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR UG
Provided By Kurt A Casby

Have you had a problem with your computer crashing for no reason at all while using your modem? I found that after installing my Oliger SAFE disk system that my 2068 would crash while dialing out. At first I thought maybe it was the disk system. I called John Oliger and he said that it should work fine with the 2050 modem. He suggested that I check for bad power and/or bad grounding. I did this and found that due to the fact that I had an old house with knob and tube wiring, that 1- I had no ground and 2- I showed up to 15 volts AC from the phone line to my computer ground bus. I had assumed that since the modem has a transformer between the phone line and the modem circuitry that it should be isolated. WRONG! AAHH! What about the ring detector circuit? It has a capacitor to block DC on one line but a resistor to cut current. This means that the computer is not completely isolated.

I also found one good reason why my computer was crashing while dialing. This was due to the fact that a small resistor and capacitor that were in series with the reed relay were snipped and pulled up! I talked to a couple of guys that had bare board modems and found that their's had the same parts snipped. I resoldered them and found that my computer no longer crashed. I also went a step further to rewire the ring detect so that it was isolated better. You can do this very easily. You only need buy a few cheap parts and find a spare 1/2 hour.

Here's how to do it. First disconnect the modem from the phone line, its 9 volt adapter, and the computer (with all power OFF). Now set the modem upside down on a large sheet of foil (to prevent static discharge. Now you will have to remove the 4 rubber feet and remove the 4 screws under the rubber feet.

Now carefully remove the front and rear panels. The PC board will lift out. The resistor and capacitor that were snipped were R-28 and C-22. I found that I was able to push both components back down and solder them. You may find that yours are just too short. If you need to replace them, get a 1/8 watt 100 ohm resistor and a 470 pf capacitor rated 150 volts or better.

Now for the ring detect circuit. Remove R-29 and C-23. (4.7k res. and .47 uf cap.). In place of these, you will put in 2-3.3k resistors and 2-1 uf/100 volt nonpolarized caps. You will twist a cap and resistor leads together and solder at the twist. The remaining ends will go into the holes where the 2 parts you removed went. See the diagram for help. After you do this, check your soldering and BE SURE THERE ARE NO TRACES CROSSED. If there are, use a little solder wick or a solder sucker to remove it (these will be helpful in removing the res. and cap.). Now be sure that the leads from the parts you just added don't protrude too far through the board. If so cut them close to the board. Put the board back in the case bottom and put the front and back panels on. Now be SURE THAT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CAPS AND RESISTORS WON'T TOUCH THE INSIDE OF THE CASE. Push them down as close to the board as possible.

It is better to leave the rubber feet off until you finish testing the modem. Before connecting the modem to the computer or phone line, check the resistance from either pins on the phone line plug to the metal strip in the edge connector that plugs into the computer. Set the ohm meter to HI ohms. The needle should not move or in the case of a digital meter, it should stay at over range. The only wires from the phone line that the modem uses are the red and green lines. You might see a very quick flicker of the ohm meter but if it shows a steady resistance reading, recheck your work. NOTE: DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS CORRECTION IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING.

James G. DuPuy

XX



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WELCOME TO PATS

Members of the PATS SIG will find that the consolidation with CCAT/S will bring renewed interest for them plus the opportunity of all members to become better acquainted. Past CCAT/s members will also find that there will be opportunity to participate in activities of SIG.

This mailing is based on the membership list of the 2 organizations. As usual, because dues (\$15.00) are owed in January, this will be your last issue if payment is not received by our treasurer. Mailing is made on about the 25th of each month so don't put it off. Checks should be made payable to Clackamas County Area T/S User Group. Use the return address on page 8.

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TO THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

XX -8- XXX

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